I claim:

1. A method of initializing a simulation of a behavior of an industrial plant, which comprises:

identifying, for each component of an industrial plant having a number of components, a component type defined in circuit terms by a number of inputs and by a number of outputs for one parameter;

using a stored dependence matrix describing a component-type-specific signal flow structure for a parameter of each of the number of outputs to determine for each of the number of outputs which parameters cannot be derived from other parameters to be fed to the component; and

entering only those parameters which cannot be derived from the other parameters to be fed to the component.

2. The method according to claim 1, which comprises using a parameter value ascertained during an initialization of the component for an output in an initialization of a further component having an input connected downstream of the output of the component.

3. The method according to claim 1, which comprises using a parameter value initially input during an initialization of the component for an output in an initialization of a further

component having an input connected downstream of the output of the component.

4. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the dependence matrix with a number of columns corresponding to the number of inputs of the component type and a number of rows corresponding to the number of outputs of the component type, and recording in the rows for each output of the component type whether the related output parameter is completely defined by the parameters at the inputs of the component type.

5. In combination with an industrial plant having a number of components classifiable into a number of component types, a simulation system for the industrial plant, the simulation system comprising:

a storage module storing a dependence matrix describing a component-type-specific signal flow structure for each component type of the industrial plant; and

a computer module determining for each of the number of outputs which parameters cannot be derived from other parameters to be fed to the component and specifying a parameter input to be requested only for those parameters of each of the number of outputs which cannot be derived from other parameters to be fed to the component.

6. The simulation system according to claim 5, wherein said dependence matrix has a number of columns corresponding to the number of inputs of the component type and a number of rows corresponding to the number of outputs of the component type, said rows recording for each output of the component type whether the related output parameter is completely defined by the parameters at the inputs of the component type.